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Division of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:
TOXICOLOGY TECHNICAL PROCEDURES MANUAL	Effective Date: 31-March-2004

### 39 DETERMINATION OF EVAPORATED SOLIDS IN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

## 39.1 Summary

39.1.1 Solids content of a distilled alcoholic beverage is a basic indicator of the consistency of quality of the brand. Examination of the color and texture of the evaporated solids also gives an indication to the concentrations of some components and may indicate additional tests should be conducted. This procedure is routine for distilled alcoholic beverages listed for sale by the Virginia Department of ABC.

## 39.2 Apparatus

- 39.2.1 Drying oven
- 39.2.2 Evaporating dishes, porcelain, 50mL volume
- 39.2.3 Pipets, Class A, 50mL
- 39.2.4 Analytical balance
- 39.2.5 Steam bath
- 39.2.6 Dessicator

## 39.3 Control

39.3.1 Bourbon whiskey quality control sample

#### 39.4 Procedure

- 39.4.1 Tare evaporating dishes using analytical balance. Record tare weight on solids tare worksheet.
- 39.4.2 Pipet 50 mL of control bourbon whiskey and case samples into evaporating dishes.
- 39.4.3 Evaporate all samples to dryness on steam bath.
- 39.4.4 Dry residues for 30 minutes in drying oven preheated to  $100^{\circ}$  C.
- 39.4.5 Transfer evaporating dishes to dessicator and allow to cool for 30 minutes.
- 39.4.6 Weigh each evaporating dish and record weights on solids tare worksheet.

# 39.5 Calculation

39.5.1 Calculate concentration of evaporated solids (in 50 mL sample) using the following equation:

[weight of dish with solids – tare weight of dish] x 2000 = gm evaporated solids per 100 L

## 39.6 Interpretation

- 39.6.1 Compare concentration of evaporated solids with previously analyzed known brands and beverages.
- 39.6.2 A value lower than normal for that brand or product may indicate a younger, less aged product.

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	39.6.3 Other variations in the concentration of evaporated solids may indicate possible changes in water sou manufacturing.					
	39.6.4	Color and	d patterns of evaporated solids may be useful and should be reco	rded on worksheet.		
		39.6.4.1	A granular, black deposit strongly indicates copper and heavy	metals		
		39.6.4.2	A spiral solids pattern is characteristic of some tequilas			
<b>).</b> 7	Quality Control					
	39.7.1	Evaporated solids of bourbon whiskey quality control sample must be within $\pm 10\%$ of the mean (based on historical data of the QC sample)				
9.8	8 References					
	39.8.1	.1 AOAC 15 <sup>th</sup> edition, 920.47, 1990.				